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July 20, 1900

1862

No farther case has as yet occurred in connection with that upon the steamship *Rosetta* in the harbor of Yokohama, already reported to you.

The fact that the number and frequency of cases of pest are diminishing shows, I think, that the native sanitary officials are making a successful fight against the epidemic.

Respectfully,

STUART ELDRIDGE,

*Acting Assistant Surgeon, U. S. M. H. S.*

The SURGEON-GENERAL,

*U. S. Marine-Hospital Service.*

*Concerning supposed second bacillus of plague.*

YOKOHAMA, JAPAN, June 19, 1900.

SIR: Referring to your letter of May 9 (L. W. R. & M. J. R.) inclosing a translation from some German newspaper with regard to a supposed discovery by Professor Kitasato of a second bacillus of the plague, and requesting me to investigate the authenticity of the report, I have the honor to quote the following letter from Professor Kitasato in answer to my inquiries on the subject:

TOKYO, June 16, 1900.

SIR: In the septicæmia of plague we often find a bacillus which is very like to fowl cholera bacillus, in the bubo, the blood, and internal organs.

This bacillus is a quite different kind from the bacillus of Yersin and is not the real cause of plague. But it is thought that in the septicæmia this bacillus is about no less an agency.

Therefore it might be better named as a septicæmia bacillus. The German newspapers perhaps would be recording about the above bacillus.

If you want culture of this bacillus I will send it to you.

Respectfully,

S. KITASATO.

I will later send you cultures of the bacillus to which Dr. Kitasato refers.

Respectfully,

STUART ELDRIDGE,

*Acting Assistant Surgeon, U. S. M. H. S.*

The SURGEON-GENERAL,

*U. S. Marine-Hospital Service.*

MEXICO.

*Reports from Vera Cruz—Yellow-fever epidemic—Completely equipped disinfecting plant established by the Mexican authorities.*

VERA CRUZ, MEXICO, July 1, 1900.

SIR: I have the honor to make the following report for the week ended June 30:

Cases of yellow fever, 12; deaths, 4; cases of smallpox, 8; deaths, 2; deaths from all causes, 38. Six deaths were reported from pernicious and 5 from remittent fever.

During the week yellow fever was declared epidemic, and that article of the quarantine regulations that requires all baggage from this port to be disinfected has been enforced. Baggage from the noninfected localities will be inspected and labeled with the same label as that which has been disinfected. I have notified Havana and New York of this regulation, and forwarded them copies of the certificate of disinfection and also of the labels. I inclose you a copy of both.

I am convinced that the disinfection will be efficient and the inspection thorough, for one of the employees of the station is now serving a

sentence for selling a disinfection label without disinfecting the baggage. I do not think that such an occurrence will happen this season.

The Mexican quarantine authorities have a completely equipped steam disinfecting plant and a formalin gas generator. They can utilize the police department for the prevention of communication from shore to vessels and from vessels to shore.

A vessel, its furnishings, and the clothing of the crew, can be thoroughly disinfected at this port.

Will a disinfection of a vessel, certified to by the Mexican authorities and me, be accepted in New Orleans, Mobile, Galveston, Tampa, and other ports of the Gulf?

The authorities here are anxious to cooperate with the Marine-Hospital Service in every way possible, and I think that a trial of their disinfection, and recognizing their interest in the prevention of the infection of vessels, would lead to closer quarantine relations, and an improvement in the present regulations.

The disinfection of vessels would be optional with the captain or agent, but if a thorough disinfection here would save three or more days delay in quarantine in the States, I think that the vessels would take advantage of the regulation.

Yellow fever has made its appearance in Cordoba, but I have not been able to secure any reliable information in regard to the number of cases and deaths.

During the past week I have inspected 9 vessels and issued health certificates to 145 passengers.

The health of the shipping is excellent, no cases of fever having been reported in the harbor this season.

The rainy season has set in, and there is a marked improvement in the sanitary condition of the town, and much improvement in the atmospheric conditions.

Respectfully,

SAML. H. HODGSON,

*Acting Assistant Surgeon, U. S. M. H. S.*

The SURGEON-GENERAL,

*U. S. Marine-Hospital Service.*

[Translation—Inclosures.]

*For steamship agent.*

SANITARY SERVICE, VERA CRUZ.

Mr. A. B. ———, passenger for New York or Havana, ———, has 2 pieces disinfected baggage.

Vera Cruz.

Fees, \$——.

*For passenger.*

SANITARY SERVICE, VERA CRUZ.

Mr. A. B. ———, passenger for New York or Havana, ———, has 2 pieces disinfected baggage.

Vera Cruz.

Fees, \$——.

[Seal of Superior Board of Health of Mexico.]

SERVICE AT VERA CRUZ.

DEPARTMENT OF DISINFECTION.

CLEARED.

Of no value without the seal of the Service.

[Reply.]

OFFICE OF SURGEON-GENERAL U. S. M. H. S.,  
*Washington, D. C., July 10, 1900.*

SIR: Referring to your letter of the 1st instant, stating that the Mexican quarantine authorities have a completely equipped disinfecting plant and formalin gas generator; that they can utilize the police department for preventing communication from shore to vessels and from vessels to shore; that a vessel, its furnishings, and the clothing of the crew can be thoroughly disinfected at this port, and stating that yellow fever was declared epidemic during the week in which you were writing and that the article of the quarantine regulations that requires all baggage from this port to be disinfected has been enforced; also, giving further information regarding the matter and inquiring whether the disinfection of a vessel certified to by the Mexican authorities and by you would be accepted in New Orleans, Mobile, Galveston, Tampa, and other ports of the Gulf, I have to inform you that all of the ports mentioned by you are under the control of local quarantine officers and that the Marine-Hospital Service can not decide whether they will accept such certificates of disinfection or not. The Bureau is gratified, however, to know that the Mexican authorities are alive to the importance of this matter and hopes that their action, as outlined by you, will prove efficient in protecting the United States against the infection of yellow fever from your port.

Respectfully,

WALTER WYMAN,  
*Surgeon-General U. S. M. H. S.*Acting Asst. Surg. S. H. HODGSON,  
*United States Marine-Hospital Service,  
United States Consulate, Vera Cruz, Mexico.*VERA CRUZ, MEXICO, *July 9, 1900.*

SIR: I have the honor to make the following report for the week ended July 7: Deaths from all causes, 35; deaths from yellow fever, 6; deaths from smallpox, 9. For the past three days the rain has been continuous, and the weather very cool.

During the week 4 vessels were inspected and issued bills of health and 63 passengers were granted health certificates.

The harbor continues free from infection, and the fever seems to be confined to the lower classes in the new portion of the city.

The disinfection of outgoing baggage is progressing very favorably under the direction of the local health authorities.

I have heard nothing new in regard to the progress of the fever in Coatzacoalcas, Cordoba, Salina Cruz, or Progreso. I heard that a death from yellow fever had occurred in Campeche, but it has not yet been authenticated.

Respectfully,

SAML. H. HODGSON,  
*Acting Assistant Surgeon, U. S. M. H. S.*The SURGEON-GENERAL,  
*U. S. Marine-Hospital Service.**Escape of Italian immigrants at Vera Cruz.*

[Telegram.]

VERA CRUZ, MEXICO, *July 16, 1900.*

Thousand Italians imported for railroad in May have broken contract and scattered.

HODGSON.

WYMAN, *Washington, D. C.*